

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jason W. Bryan and Tracy Druce on Monday, September 20, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 9. A carrier arrangement for a fishing rod and reel configured to be mounted to a carrying vehicle, said carrier arrangement comprising:

a carrier box formed from a lid portion and a base portion configurable between open and closed configurations,

said lid portion having a top roof portion extending downward to a front side portion, a rear side portion arranged opposite said front side portion, and a first side portion and a second side portion extending longitudinally between said front side and rear side portions, each forming an edge for contact with said base portion,

said base portion having a lower floor portion with an edge extending upward to a front side portion, a rear side portion opposite said front side portion, and a first side portion and a second side portion extending longitudinally between said front side and rear side portions, each forming an edge for contact with said lid portion,

said edge of said lid portion and said edge of said base portion contacting one another in said closed configuration to form a substantially weather-tight seal and forming a void cavity within said [[box]] carrier box, said box configured to receive a fishing rod with said front side portions contacting said fishing rod and said rear side portions contacting a different portion of said fishing rod, said carrier box sized to contain a fishing reel attached to said fishing rod within an interior of said carrier box,

said front side portion of said lid portion and said front side portion of said base portion each having an aperture together forming an access aperture in said front side portions when said box is in said closed configuration,

a pliable buffer arranged within an interior of said access aperture, said pliable buffer comprising at least two mating portions extending across the entirety of the access aperture in the closed configuration and adapted to form-fit about a portion of the fishing rod positioned therein and selectively manufactured from a material that forms a weather-resistant barrier between the [[an]] interior and an exterior of said carrier box in the closed configuration when a fishing rod is installed therein, and

a clamping arrangement attached to an [[the]] underside of said base portion, said clamping arrangement configured to releasably fasten upon a vehicular carrier rack.

Claim 13. The carrier arrangement of claim 9 wherein said lid portion and said base portion are hinged together for pivotation relative one to the other and a seal arrangement is provided between said at least two mating lip portions of said pliable

~~buffer lid and base portions~~ for affecting a seal between said lid and base portions
~~therebetween~~ in the closed configuration.

Claim 16. The carrier arrangement of claim 9, wherein said carrier box having drainage holes located in a ~~[[the]]~~ bottom of said base portion.

Claim 18. The carrier arrangement of claim 9 further comprising an anchor arrangement having a top portion for securing a ~~said~~ distal end of said fishing rod, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ heights of ~~[[the]]~~ said top portion and said access aperture are ~~[[is]]~~ of substantially the same level so that a fishing rod is substantially level to a roof of said vehicle when said carrier arrangement is mounted thereon.

Claim 21. A carrier arrangement for a fishing rod and reel configured to be mounted to a carrying vehicle, said carrier arrangement comprising:

a carrier box formed from a lid portion and a base portion configurable between open and closed configurations,

said lid portion having a top roof portion extending downward to a front side portion, a rear side portion arranged opposite said front side portion, and a first side portion and a second side portion extending longitudinally between said front side and rear side portions, each forming an edge for contact with said base portion,

said base portion having a lower floor portion with an edge extending upward to a front side portion, a rear side portion opposite said front side portion, and a first side

portion and a second side portion extending longitudinally between said front side and rear side portions, each forming an edge for contact with said lid portion,

said edge of said lid portion and said edge of said base portion contacting one another in said closed configuration to form a substantially weather-tight seal and forming a void cavity within said carrier box ~~carrier~~, said box configured to receive a fishing rod with said front side portions contacting said fishing rod and said rear side portions contacting a different portion of said fishing rod, said carrier box sized to contain a fishing reel attached to said fishing rod within an interior of said carrier box,

said front side portion of said lid portion and said front side portion of said base portion each having an aperture together forming an access aperture in said front side portions when said box is in said closed configuration,

a pliable buffer arranged within an interior of said access aperture, said pliable buffer comprising at least two mating portions extending across the entirety of the access aperture in the closed configuration and adapted to form-fit about a portion of the fishing rod positioned therein and selectively manufactured from a material that forms a weather-resistant barrier between the ~~the~~ interior and an exterior of said carrier box in the closed configuration when a fishing rod is installed therein, and

~~a pliable buffer arranged within an interior of said access aperture, said pliable buffer comprising at least two mating portions extending across the entirety of the access aperture in the closed configuration and adapted to form-fit about a portion of the fishing rod positioned therein and selectively manufactured from a material that~~

~~forms a weather-resistant barrier between an interior and exterior of said carrier box in the closed configuration when a fishing rod is installed therein,~~

a clamping arrangement attached the underside of said base portion, said clamping arrangement configured to releasably fasten upon a vehicular carrier rack, and an anchor arrangement comprising one or more concave grooves on a top surface of the anchor arrangement for receiving one or more fishing rods, wherein the anchor arrangement is separate from said carrier box and attachable ~~attached~~ to said vehicular carrier rack a distance away from said carrier box for securing a distal end of a fishing rod installed in said carrier box.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to claims 9 and 21, the prior art of record does not disclose a carrier arrangement for a fishing rod and reel configured to be mounted to a carrying vehicle, said carrier arrangement comprising said lid portion having a first side portion and a second side portion extending longitudinally between said front side and rear side portions; and said base portion having a first side portion and a second side portion extending longitudinally between said front side and rear side portions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darren W. Ark whose telephone number is (571) 272-6885. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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DWA